
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov

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2007

Infectious Waste

Infectious waste is a subcategory of the broader medical waste stream. In New Hampshire, it is defined as any waste which, because of its infectious nature, may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness, or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed or otherwise managed. It is regulated as a solid waste under New Hampshire RSA Chapter 149-M and the New Hampshire [Solid Waste Rules](#) (ref. Part Env-Sw 904), with special treatment and disposal standards.

Infectious wastes are generated at many different facilities, including doctors' and dentists' offices, hospitals, clinics, schools, nursing homes, mortuaries and veterinary facilities. Infectious waste includes, but is not limited to, cultures and stocks of infectious agents, pathological wastes, waste human blood and blood products, sharps used in patient and animal care, laboratory wastes and dialysis waste.

Infectious waste may be disposed in a permitted landfill if (1) the waste has been previously treated to meet the disinfection standards of Env-Sw 904.03, (2) approval has been obtained from the Waste Management Division of the Department of Environmental Services, and (3) notification is given by the transporter to the receiving facility prior to disposal. Shredding or otherwise rendering the waste unrecognizable is not required. Liquid infectious waste may be disposed via a sanitary sewer, subject to local approval.

Transportation of infectious waste does not require manifests or licensing of transporters by DES. Untreated waste transported off-site for treatment and disposal must be double-bagged in non-permeable, 3 mil polyethylene (or equivalent), and labeled as infectious waste with the transporter's name and address. Sharps must be encased in rigid, puncture-resistant containers within the double bags. Additional transportation and packaging requirements have been adopted by the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) under its hazardous materials regulations. For the specifics on these federal requirements, the US DOT should be contacted directly at (603) 225-1626.

Companies that will provide pick-up services for disposal out of state are listed below. (Note: placement on this list does not imply endorsement by the state, nor is this list necessarily all-inclusive.)

Letitia Capitan

Customer Service

Northeast Medical Waste Services Inc.

888-698-8855 toll-free
978-709-3012 fax
nemedwaste@aol.com
www.northeastmedicalwaste.com

Stericycle Inc.
1-866-783-7422

Medical Waste Disposal Company Inc.
PO Box 673
Natick MA 01760
1-866-810-3000

Please contact the DES Public Information and Permitting Office, (603) 271-2975, if you have any questions or need additional information.